

Bond Project Advisory Committee
Minutes of Wednesday, February 25, 2015 Meeting
Approved on Monday, March 2, 2015
Transit 2nd Floor Conference Room
149 N. Stone Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85701

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Liz Rangel at 4:33 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Liz Rangel, Chair
Michael Keith
Roger Pfeiffer
Tom Warne
Bob Walkup (arrived at 5:00 p.m.)
Kevin Daily

Absent:

Dennis Arnold
David Hunter
Lorraine Morales

Staff Members Present: Nicole Ewing-Gavin (Office of Integrated Planning), Joanne Hershenhorn (Office of Integrated Planning), Jane Duarte (Parks and Recreation), Fred Gray (Parks and Recreation), Beth Lucas (Parks and Recreation), Greg Jackson (Office of Economic Initiatives), Glenn Grabski (Tucson Convention Center/SMG)

2. Approval of Minutes – February 19, 2015

Michael Keith moved to approve the February 19th minutes. Tom Warne seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

6./3. Call to the Audience (agenda item 6. – this item was taken out of order) and Discussion of Pima County Bond Advisory Committee Chairs and the County Administrator's Bond Package Recommendations (agenda item 3.)

The Committee decided it would hear first from members of the public who wanted to speak generally, than from those who wanted to speak about a specific project directly before the Committee discussed that project.

The following people spoke at the Call to the Audience:

Brian Flagg
Karen Larkin
Margot Hurst
Glenn Grabski (TCC/SMG)
Andrea Dillenburg
Karla Van Drunen Littooy (TCC Today)

Helen Erickson (TCC Today)

Public Speaker - general:

Brian Flagg said he hoped the City and County could unite in support of getting the bond package passed, as there is much need in the community for these projects.

PR - 220, Adaptive Recreation Center (ARC) Expansion – the Committee recommended funding this at \$12 million, while the Pima County BAC Chairs and County Administrator recommended \$6 million

Public Speakers

Karen Larkin said she uses the ARC and she stressed how important it is for people with disabilities to be with others who also have disabilities. She said \$6 million is not enough and that \$12 million is needed for the expansion.

Margot Hurst said she has worked on the ARC project since 1989, and she supports funding in an amount greater than the \$6 million that the Pima County BAC Chairs and the County Administrator recommended.

(end of public speakers regarding the ARC)

Fred Gray of the Parks and Recreation Department referred to a Power Point handout and reiterated that the ARC is used by people all over Pima County, of all ages and all types of disabilities. They had over 77,000 users this past year and that number is growing. Their classes fill up the first day and they always have waiting lists.

Committee discussion ensued. Kevin Daily expressed concern about operating and maintenance costs.

*Bob Walkup arrived at 5:00 p.m. Liz Rangel left the room at 5:08 p.m. and returned at 5:10 p.m.

Roger Pfeiffer and Tom Warne were concerned about substantially increasing the City's total request above the \$87.13 million recommended by the County BAC Chairs and County Administrator (BAC Chairs and CA), noting the Committee's recommendation of \$95,693,500 is already \$8,563,500 above that number. Tom Warne made a motion to accept the BAC Chairs and CA recommendation of \$6 million for the ARC as is with no increase. Michael Keith seconded it, and the motion carried 5-1 (Roger Pfeiffer opposed).

N-21 Downtown Community Theaters and Historic Cultural Landscape - the Committee recommended funding this at \$28 million, while the Pima County BAC Chairs and County Administrator recommended \$18.5 million

Public speakers:

Glenn Grabski of the Tucson Convention Center (TCC)/SMG (consultants hired by the City to manage TCC operations) said the theaters are architectural gems and should be restored, and that much work is needed to enhance safety and bring the theaters up to par.

Andrea Dillenburg spoke about needs at the Music Hall, home of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra. She presented a list of 17 items that need attention.

Karla Van Drunen Littooy of TCC Today provided a handout on projected economic benefits that would result from the proposed improvements, if the full funding were restored.

Helen Erickson, also of TCC Today, spoke of the importance of restoring the Eckbo fountains and landscaping.

(end of public speakers regarding the Downtown Community Theaters and Historic Cultural Landscape)

Elaine Becherer of the City Manager's Office explained that the original \$28 million estimate she provided was her best estimate at the time. Since then, the City contracted with a third party estimator and Elaine now has a better estimate of approximately \$36.9 million, based on the original scope. Tom Warne asked if there was any feedback on Rio Nuevo interest. It was indicated that while Rio Nuevo has expressed interest, the number has not been on the order of the several millions needed. Kevin Daily asked how much it would cost to complete just the Music Hall improvements. Elaine said about \$21 million for construction only, plus additional costs. Bob Walkup wanted to find a way to add money back into this project. Further discussion ensued. Tom Warne made a motion to table this discussion until the next meeting, and to hold another meeting to finish discussing this project and draft a recommendation letter, with project amounts and priorities, for Mayor and Council to consider at their meeting on Tuesday March 3. The motion was seconded by Kevin Dailey, and carried 6-0.

4. Draft Letter to Mayor and Council regarding Pima County Bond Advisory Chairs and the County Administrator's Bond Package Recommendation
This item was not discussed.
5. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Frequency, Meeting Schedule
It was decided to hold the next meeting on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at a to-be-determined location.
7. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.